

OTAKE -- 10/649,607

Client/Matter: 041535-0305539

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are currently pending. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended. Support for the amendment to claim 1 may be found in Figure 2B and in the specification in paragraphs [0029]-[0040]. No new matter is added. Reconsideration in view of the above-outlined amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,143,433 to Farrell. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Farrell disclose a night vision backlighting system for liquid crystal displays. The liquid crystal display panel includes an array of primary fluorescent light tubes 18 to achieve even light distribution over a liquid crystal panel 12. A reflector body 24 is located behind the tubes 18 to reflect light towards the liquid crystal panel 12. The reflector body 24 includes slots 23 that are located behind the tubes 18. A filter 39 is provided on the backside of the body 24. In one embodiment, secondary fluorescent light tubes 37 are provided behind the filter 39. At desired times (i.e., low level light operation), the tubes 18 are turned off and the tubes 37 are turned on so that a lower level of light is produced. The light from tubes 37 pass through the filter 39 and slots 23. In another embodiment, Farrell discloses replacing the tubes 37 with low-level light source 38, which includes red, green and blue light emitting devices. The light emitted by the low level sources 38 passes through the tubes 18 and is reradiated as light rays. In Farrell, either the primary light source or the secondary light source is on.

By contrast, amended claim 1 is directed to a backlight device for lighting a liquid crystal display device. The backlight device includes self-luminous sources in primary colors of red, green, and blue. The three primary colors from the self-luminous sources are mixed and synthesized into white light. The backlight device include a light-conducting plate and/or a light-scattering plate. The self-luminous sources of the three primary colors are illuminated sequentially at different timings for each color and so that the self-luminous sources periodically illuminate in sequence by a switching operation. The light-generating timings for every two of the self-luminous sources partially overlap, which achieves time-division light-emission.

Farrell does not disclose the claimed backlight device. While Farrell discloses the use of red, green and blue light emitting devices, Farrell does not that these light emitting devices are illuminated sequentially at different timings for each color and so that the self-luminous

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sources periodically illuminate in sequence by a switching operation. In Farrell, either the primary light sources or the secondary light sources are on depending on whether night conditions or day conditions exist. Furthermore, Farrell fails to disclose, teach or suggest that any light-generating timings for every two of the self-luminous sources partially overlap. As discussed above, Farrell disclose night condition mode of operation in which the secondary light sources are illuminated and a day condition mode of operation in which the primary light sources are illuminated. Farrell provides no overlap in the operation of these light sources. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that Farrell cannot achieve the claimed time-division light-emission.

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is allowable over Farrell. Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reason. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection based upon Farrell is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully submit that the claims 1-4 define subject matter that is patentable over the prior art cited of record. It is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Should further issues require resolution prior to allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone applicant's undersigned attorney at the number below. Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: March 18, 2005
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